

**NATIONAL SECURITY THREATS**

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine current and future worldwide threats to the national security of the United States, focusing on global terrorism, Russia's nuclear weapons stockpile, chemical and biological weapons, missiles, information operations, and international crime, after receiving testimony George J. Tenet, Director, Central Intelligence Agency; Robert S. Mueller III, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice; and Vice Admiral Lowell E. Jacoby, U.S. Navy, Director, Defense Intelligence Agency.

**INTELLIGENCE**

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to call.

**PREDATORY LENDING**

*Special Committee on Aging:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine federal and state government protection of older Americans from predatory financial lenders, including the usefulness of consumer education, counseling, and disclosures as a deterrent, after receiving testimony from David G. Wood, Director, Financial Markets and Community Investment, General Accounting Office; John C. Weicher, Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for Housing-Federal Housing Commissioner; Howard Beales, Director, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission; Gavin M. Gee, Idaho Department of Finance, Boise; Lavada E. DeSalles, American Association of Retired Persons, Washington, D.C.; and Veronica Harding, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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# House of Representatives

**Chamber Action**

**Measures Introduced:** 9 public bills, H.R. 3817–3825; and 7 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 364–366, and H. Res. 530–533 were introduced.

**Pages H574–75**

**Additional Cosponsors:**

**Pages H575–76**

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed today as follows:

Filed on February 18, H. Con. Res. 189, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the International Geophysical Year (IGY) and supporting an International Geophysical Year–2 (IGY–2) in 2007–08, amended (H. Rept. 108–422);

Filed on February 18, H.R. 1292, to encourage the development and integrated use by the public and private sectors of remote sensing and other geospatial information, amended (H. Rept. 108–423);

H.R. 2707, to direct the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, acting through the U.S. Forest Service, to carry out a demonstration program to assess potential water savings through control of Salt Cedar and Russian Olive on forests and public lands administered by the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Forest Service, amended (H. Rept. 108–424, Pt. 1);

H.R. 2391, to amend title 35, United States Code, to promote research among universities, the public sector, and private enterprise, amended (H. Rept. 108–425);

H.R. 3036, to authorize appropriations for the Department of Justice for fiscal years 2004 through 2006, amended (H. Rept. 108–426); and

H. Res. 529, providing for consideration of H.R. 1997, to amend title 18, United States Code, and the Uniform Code of Military Justice to protect unborn children from assault and murder (H. Rept. 108–427).

**Page H574**

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Leach to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

**Page H517**

**Chaplain:** The prayer was offered today by Bishop Alfred A. Owens, Jr., Greater Mt. Calvary Holy Church in Washington, DC.

**Page H517**

**Journal:** Agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal of Wednesday, February 11, 2004 by a yeand-nay vote of 381 yeas to 32 nays, Roll No. 25.

**Pages H527–528**

**Suspensions:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

**Salt Cedar and Russian Olive Control Demonstration Act:** H.R. 2707, amended, to direct the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, acting through the U.S. Forest Service, to carry out a demonstration program to assess potential water savings through control of Salt Cedar and Russian Olive on forests and public lands administered by the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Forest Service, by

a  $\frac{2}{3}$  ye-a-and-nay vote of 367 yeas to 40 nays, Roll No. 26; **Pages H520–23, H529–30**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: a bill to provide for an assessment of the extent of the invasion of Salt Cedar and Russian Olive on lands in the Western United States and efforts to date to control such invasion on public and private lands, including tribal lands, to establish a demonstration program to address the invasion of Salt Cedar and Russian Olive, and for other purposes. **Page H530**

**Southwest Forest Health and Wildfire Prevention Act of 2003:** H.R. 2696, amended, to establish Institutes to demonstrate and promote the use of adaptive ecosystem management to reduce the risk of wildfires, and restore the health of fire-adapted forest and woodland ecosystems of the interior West; and **Pages H523–26**

**Providing for the conveyance of land in Douglas County, Oregon:** S. 714, to provide for the conveyance of a small parcel of Bureau of Land Management land in Douglas County, Oregon, to the county to improve management of and recreational access to the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  ye-a-and-nay vote of 397 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 27. **Pages H526–27, H530**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 3 p.m. and reconvened at 6:33 p.m. **Page H527**

**GAO Human Capital Reform Act of 2003:** Agreed that it shall be in order at any time without intervention of any point of order to consider H.R. 2751, to provide new human capital flexibilities with respect to the GAO; that the bill shall be considered as read for amendment; that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Government Reform now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted; that all points of order against the bill, as amended, are waived; and the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the bill, as amended, and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions. **Page H527**

**Member Sworn—6th District of Kentucky:** Representative-elect A.B. “Ben” Chandler presented himself in the well of the House and was administered the oath of office by the Speaker. Earlier, read a letter from the Clerk transmitting a copy of the original Certificate of Election received from the Honorable Trey Grayson, Secretary of State, Commonwealth of Kentucky, indicating that, on examination of the Official Abstracts of Votes on file in that office for the special election held on February 17, 2004, the Honorable A.B. “Ben” Chandler was

duly elected Representative in Congress for the Sixth Congressional District, Commonwealth of Kentucky. **Page H528**

**Senate Message:** Message received from the Senate today appears on page H517.

**Senate Referral:** S. 1786 was referred to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, Energy and Commerce, and Ways and Means. **Page H562**

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Three ye-a-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings today. There were no quorum calls. **Pages H528, H529–30, and H530**

**Adjournment:** The House met at 2:00 p.m. and adjourned at 12:00 a.m.

## Committee Meetings

### FEDERAL EMPLOYEES—NEED FOR DENTAL AND VISION BENEFITS

**Committee on Government Reform:** Subcommittee on Civil Service and Agency Organization held an oversight hearing entitled “We’d Like to See You Smile: The Need for Dental and Vision Benefits for Federal Employees (H.R. 3751).” Testimony was heard from Abby Block, Deputy Associate Director, OPM; and public witnesses.

### U.S. AND THE IRAQI MARSHLANDS: AN ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE

**Committee on International Relations:** Subcommittee on the Middle East and Central Asia held a hearing on United States and the Iraqi Marshlands: An Environmental Response. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Bureau for Asia and the Near East, AID, Department of State: Gordon West, Acting Assistant Administrator, and John Wilson, Senior Environmental Officer; and public witnesses.

### OVERSIGHT—SATELLITE HOME VIEWER IMPROVEMENT ACT REAUTHORIZATION

**Committee on the Judiciary:** Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property held an oversight hearing entitled “Reauthorization of the Satellite Home Viewer Improvement Act.” Testimony was heard from Marybeth Peters, Register of Copyrights, Library of Congress; and public witnesses.

### UNBORN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE ACT

**Committee on Rules:** Granted, by voice vote, a modified closed rule providing two hours of debate in the House on H.R. 1997, Unborn Victims of Violence Act of 2004, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of